

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 4 and 6 are amended. Claims 13-21 have been provisionally withdrawn from consideration.

Reconsideration based on the above Amendments and the following Remarks is respectfully requested.

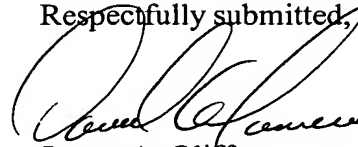
Claims 4 and 6 are amended to correct informalities. The amendments have no effect on the scope of the claims and do not affect patentability as they correct obvious typographical errors.

In reply to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-12, the method claims, with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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